

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A process for collecting bacteria adhered to the intestinal wall comprising the steps of carrying out a colonoscopy with brushes adapted for cell collection and collecting probiotic bacteria adhered to the intestinal wall, wherein the collection is carried out in various segments of the bowels by means of individual brushes.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that said brushes are connected to conventional colonoscopy equipment.
- 3-5. (cancelled)
6. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that each strain collected is cultured and analysed separately.
7. (previously presented) A process for isolating bacterial strains, comprising collecting said strains according to claim 1.
8. (previously presented) A method for preparing a medicament to treat and/or prevent alterations of the intestinal microflora comprising the steps of providing one or more probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1 and using said strain or strains to prepare said medicament.
9. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical compositions comprising probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1, to treat and/or prevent the alterations of the intestinal microflora.
10. (previously presented) A probiotic food comprising probiotic bacteria strains obtained by the process of claim 1.

11. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the segments of the intestinal wall consist of the distal ileum, right colon, transverse colon, left colon and sigma.

12. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the collection is carried out in various segments of the bowels by means of four individual brushes~~are 5~~.

13. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 12, wherein ~~the~~ a biopsy channel is washed with saline before introducing each of said individual brushes.

14. (new) The process according to claim 12, wherein the collection is carried out in the distal ileum by means of a first individual brush, and in the right colon by means of a second individual brush, and in the transverse colon by means of a third individual brush, and in the left colon by means of a fourth individual brush.

15. (new) The process of claim 1, wherein said probiotic bacteria belong to the Bifidobacterium genus.